

merely because of the friendship between a man and his dog:

"The friendship of a dog is precious. It becomes even more so when one is so far removed from home as we are in Africa. I have a Scottie. In him I find consolation and diversion. For me he is the one 'person' to whom I can talk without the conversation turning back to the war. Duckworth is performing a patriotic service. I am confident you will view the situation similarly despite the natural desire to have this close companion of your gallant son."

Dr. East wrote Lt. Taff, apologizing for nearly separating him and Duckworth, and asked, "When you have returned to your wife and family, would you consider letting us keep him?" So Duckworth stayed, and the war went on.

Young Lt. Taff, daring, skillful and lucky, survived nearly 100 missions. His commanders decided he had given enough and sent him home. The squadron agreed that Duckworth should accompany him, that the dog, too, had gone the extra mile. Three days after their departure, Dr. East got a call from Chicago. "This is Harold Taff, came the words. 'I've brought Duckworth home to you and Mrs. East.'"

The Easts' Plainfield, N.J., residence was not the home Lt. East grew up in. When he entered the house, Duckworth was casual until he reached a room where the Easts had placed their son's possessions. He became excited, jumping on the son's bed. Then he sniffed out the clothing and uniforms in the closet. His every action confirmed that this room would be his. And so it was the rest of his days.

A couple of years later Dwight Eisenhower came to Columbia for a convocation honoring World War II leaders. Dr. East got a chance to greet Ike. "General, do you remember Duckworth?" he asked. The quick Eisenhower grin showed that he did. "You must be Dr. East," he said. "I'd sure like to meet that dog."

While Ike and Duckworth did not meet on the first occasion, there were opportunities to do so after the general became president of Columbia in 1948. What a fitting capstone it would have made for the little wartime morale booster had Ike and he become good friends at Columbia. But Dr. East's seven typewritten pages about Ike and Duckworth, filed in the university's archives, are silent on that possibility.

HONORING JOHN R. FOX

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, as we near the honoring of all our Nation's veterans through the celebration of Memorial Day, I would like to bring special attention to a World War II Army veteran from Boston, MA. On Christmas Day, 1944, 1st Lt. John R. Fox volunteered to serve as an artillery forward observer in the village of Sommocolonia, in the Serchio Valley, Italy. The following morning, trapped in a church steeple, Fox radioed his command to ask for artillery fire on his own position. No one at the artillery battalion command had ever heard such a request. They radioed back for clarification. John Fox answered, "There are hundreds of them coming. Put everything you've got on my observation post."

Mr. President, this is one of the most incredible acts of heroism about which I have ever heard. John Fox literally made the decision to sacrifice his life

for his country. He has, along with six other African American soldiers from World War II, been nominated for our Nation's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. I would like to pay tribute here not only to Lieutenant Fox, but to all black veterans from all American wars. Our great country will always be in debt to all the men and women who have given or risked their lives for the preservation of freedom. It is long past time that we properly honor those whose remarkable patriotism and sacrifices have not previously received the respect and attention they deserve. I am thankful that on this Memorial Day the proper steps finally are being taken to accomplish that.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business Tuesday, May 21, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,115,827,182,802.62.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman and child in America owes \$19,312.52 as his or her share of that debt.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 148

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the provisions of section 13, Public Law 806, 80th Congress (15 U.S.C. 714k), I transmit herewith the report of the Commodity Credit Corporation for fiscal year 1994.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 22, 1996.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 1994 AND 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 149

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by the provisions of section 3(f) of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1862(f)), I transmit herewith the combined annual reports of the National Science Foundation for fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 22, 1996.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2066. An act to amend the National School Lunch Act to provide greater flexibility to schools to meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans under the school lunch and school breakfast programs.

The enrolled bill was signed subsequently by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests, the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1009. An act for the relief of Lloyd B. Gamble.

H.R. 1483. An act to amend title 38, United States Code to allow revision of veterans benefits decisions based on clear and unmistakable error.

H.R. 2765. An act for the relief of Rocco A. Trecosta

H.R. 3373. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain veterans' benefits programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3415. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent increase in the transportation motor fuels excise tax rates enacted by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 and dedicated to the general fund of the Treasury.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution to congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of its first direct and democratic presidential election and the inauguration of its president.

H. Con. Res. 160. Concurrent resolution congratulating the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone on the success of their recent democratic multiparty elections.

H. Con. Res. 165. Concurrent resolution saluting and congratulating Polish people around the world as, on May 3, 1996, they commemorate the 205th anniversary of the adoption of Poland's first constitution.

H. Con. Res. 167. Concurrent resolution recognizing the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and supporting the closing of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and second times by unanimous consent and referred as indicated: